



# Ryan's story

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## Careers guidance

From the first meeting with Ryan, he was always aware that he wanted to work as a Chef and his dream was to have his own restaurant.

Ryan is upbeat about his GCSEs and what he might be able to achieve, although he finds some subjects more difficult than others.

Initially, Ryan was reserved in his 1-1 career guidance meetings with a Dorset Marvels Careers Adviser. However, over time Ryan started to show his true personality and he became more relaxed and confident in the meetings. Discussing his strengths with a careers advisor helped Ryan to realise the strengths he already had and he shared his interests in cookery and the arts.

Ryan and his Careers Adviser discussed the opportunity for him to undertake some work experience to allow him to gain a good insight into a busy kitchen and to see if his dream of being a chef was representative of his ideal career. They also discussed the training available locally to be a chef, either via an apprenticeship or a full-time course with a local college.

Ryan proactively booked a slot to go to a college open event. The school career's adviser and Dorset Marvels Careers Adviser then helped him to apply for both apprenticeship and further education routeway into catering at the local college.

## Work experience

Following a networking event, the Dorset Marvels Careers Adviser was able to meet with the Recruitment Consultant and Operations Manager from the Marsham Court Hotel. They discussed the Dorset Marvels Programme and the possibility of work experience placements. They were very

enthusiastic to offer placements to the Dorset Marvels students however, they would require the student to undertake an interview to check that the student was enthusiastic to work in hospitality and catering. They also advised that there may be openings via an apprenticeship for the right candidate.

The Dorset Marvels Careers Adviser discussed the interview with Ryan, explaining what he should expect and encouraging him to tell them about his passion to be a chef. Ryan booked his interview during the school holidays. The hotel management were impressed that Ryan came into the interview on his own (with his mum waiting in the car) and that he was polite and enthusiastic. They offered Ryan a work experience placement straight away.





After the interview the Careers Adviser spoke to Simon, a HR representative at the hotel. He was aware that Ryan was nervous at the interview, but he said Ryan performed well. He advised that their kitchen was large and it would give Ryan a good insight into what it was like to work as a chef in a hotel environment.

Following this, Simon gave a talk at Ryan's school advising other Dorset Marvel students about work etiquette and what an employer would expect at work experience. He used Ryan as an example of good interview technique and, as Ryan was present at the talk, this was obviously also good for Ryan's self-esteem.

On his first day at placement, his Dorset Marvels Careers Adviser came in to see how he was settling in and maintained discreet contact throughout the week.

The Adviser is continuing to work with Ryan to put together a CV that he can use in the future, to show his work experience and capture his career journey and the new skills that he gains. He is also going to work for the hotel over the summer after completing his GCSEs prior to starting his apprenticeship to get to know the work and environment better.

## Feedback

Ryan thoroughly enjoyed his work placement. He received a glowing report from the hotel from the Head Chef and other members of the kitchen team and consequently he has been offered the chef apprenticeship opportunity with the hotel. The hotel said:

**“Ryan was a credit to himself and his school, arrived early, very smart, was extremely interested in the hotel and very clear what he hoped to get out of the work experience.”**

The local college have offered to be Ryan's apprenticeship training provider and securing his apprenticeship employer has given Ryan so much more confidence in going to his college interview and taking the next steps to becoming an apprentice.

The School Careers Lead has reflected on how he thinks Ryan has developed in confidence and his confidence speaking to adults, following his interview and work experience.





Ryan shared his experience so far of support he has received through the Dorset Marvel Programme saying they

“helped a lot – stuff I wouldn’t be able to do on my own and helped me to get my future sorted out and also helped develop my confidence. I loved the work experience. I tried my best and all the staff were great!”

Ryan’s mum said:

“Ryan really enjoyed his work experience and values the amazing opportunity that was offered to him. It has helped give him a clear direction of his life goals with his work career. He is a lot more confident and understanding of the process with the help of his career’s adviser. The help and advice to

get Ryan into his work experience, then into his apprenticeship was wonderful and we really could not have done it all without the help of his careers adviser.”

**Royal Marsham Hotel said about the Dorset Marvel Programme:**

“it was obvious they were working closely with their students to ensure their requirements matched the employers needs too, which is very important and not done by all schools. It was very apparent that his Careers Adviser had supported Ryan with knowledge, logistics and given him confidence with his interview.”



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